

# ESSAYONS

*forward*



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
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September 2009

**BUILDING STRONG®**

تصنيح المقالات العربية



## • GRD brings clean water to Wassit province

- Al Araby Youth Center opens in Baghdad
- Vital Fallujah electricity project nears completion
- GRD builds new facilities for Iraqi army



## ESSAYONS *Forward*

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### On the cover:



**Gulf Region District Commander Col. Dan Anninos and project engineer Troy Swofford, view the Fallujah substation.**

1st Lt. Brette Zuver and Senior Airman Jessica Comer cut a cake in honor of the Air Force's 62nd Birthday at their headquarters at Victory Base Complex near Baghdad. During the ceremony, GRD Commander Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre talked about the history of the Air Force and noted the significant contributions of Airmen to the Iraq reconstruction mission.



## Message from ME



### GRD's aim: Supporting the reconstruction effort

September 11th marked the eighth anniversary of the worst terrorist attack inflicted on our Nation. Around the world, Soldiers and Civilians alike continue defending our freedoms, creating the conditions for peace and helping to keep it, protecting our homeland, and

transforming for the future. Some are fighting with bombs and bullets while others are fighting with bricks and mortar. This is GRD's part of the fight—supporting the reconstruction effort. We have always said our mission is two-fold: first to help in rebuilding the infrastructure of this country and secondly, to put Iraqis to work quickly with visible projects in their communities. We are doing just that!

The men and women in uniform, civilians and contractors of the Gulf Region Division have worked side-by-side with the coalition forces and the Iraqi citizens to help them rebuild their country. As of today, more than 5,200 reconstruction projects have been completed with more than 350 projects ongoing and 168 in the planning stage. Additionally, at any given time we have employed from 8,000 to 15,000 Iraqis on our projects. Together we are making a difference!

As we move closer to the inactivation of the GRD Headquarters, know that this is undeniably a sign of success. The responsible drawdown of each unit, Soldier and Civilian, further demonstrates our commitment to Iraq, its people, and stability

throughout the region. I am encouraged about the future of Iraq and its ability to provide essential services to its citizens.

I am always amazed by the selfless service of the hundreds of GRD employees who have come from all over the world to do their duty, and leave Iraq a better place than they found it. I am extremely proud of all of you. Many personal sacrifices have been and are being made by each of you. While leaving behind the comfort of your homes, your families and even your jobs, each of you has stepped forward to do your part to preserve democratic principles around the world. Your personal sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. Because of your willingness to volunteer for this great mission, not only has peace on our home front been largely maintained since 9/11, but you have made a real impact on rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure and on the lives of its people.

I want to take this opportunity to thank every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Civilian, and Contractor for your many contributions to preserving our freedom and keeping our country safe. Thanks for allowing me to serve with you—it's been an honor and privilege!

*GRD is BUILDING STRONG<sup>SM</sup> foundations!*

*فرقة منطقة الخليج تبني اسساً قوية*

*Maj. Gen. Mike Eyre  
Gulf Region Division  
Commander*

## From the desk of the CSM



### Saying Goodbye is Never Easy

This month was yet another month of transition as we found ourselves saying farewell to some of our most seasoned veterans. And still we are preparing those who are leaving in the coming weeks and preparing for their

journey home. Our many thanks go out to all the Soldiers of the 416th Theater Engineer Command for their honorable, selfless and dedicated service in answering the call to duty to serve with the Gulf Region Division, and the Multi National Force-Iraq.

This organization represented our great Nation while assisting the people of Iraq with their historic reconstruction effort. Words cannot begin to describe our appreciation for their untiring efforts and the extreme personal sacrifices made by all who serve and have served in Iraq. Let us never forget that every person serving here in harm's way has a family and is someone's son or daughter.

Our gratitude and personal heartfelt thanks go out to all of our families for their endurance of the many months of separation. The thoughts, prayers and loyal support to these

fine Soldiers has been unbelievable.

As we have all learned in this environment, today is forgotten quickly. And so we cannot afford to dwell on the past and what could have been, but we must rather look towards the future. We have accomplished the Division level mission in Iraq and so our new day starts with the rise of the morning sun. As we start our new day, our new organization looks similar yet very different. It will be a challenge to say the least. The duty is tough and our business is demanding, so let us wish all those staying on to what will be the Gulf Region District well.

Lastly, our challenges, trials and tribulations have been recognized at all levels of the Army and global community. We know our efforts are significant and we all feel a sense of pride in our volunteerism to this effort and our patriotism we display every day. Thanks for all that you have done in achieving this end.

*ESSAYONS! Army Strong!  
Command Sgt. Maj. Richard "Mitch" Prater  
Gulf Region Division*





*Muthanna Governor Ibrahim Al-Mayali, Khidr Mayor Razak Homood, PRT Team Leader John Kuschner and Director General of Muthanna Roads and Bridges Badri Farhan cut the ceremonial ribbon and officially open the bridge to the 50,000 residents of Al Khidr.*

## Pedestrian bridge opens in southern Iraq

By Alicia Embrey  
Gulf Region South

After 25 years of neglect the community of Al Khidr, population 50,000, received a boost to its quality of life with the opening of a new covered pedestrian bridge.

The bridge, spanning the Euphrates River and linking both sides of the city of Al Khidr in Muthanna Province, was dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 18.

The construction of the \$360,000, 132-meter long bridge was managed by the South District of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

"This bridge will provide a critical service to Al Khidr residents who suffered for a long time from the old, unsafe and unreliable pontoons bridge," said Kamil Majhool Nino, deputy director general of Al Muthanna Roads and Bridges. "We consider this project the start for more projects for this area. Together we will build this country."

In his opening speech, Al Muthanna's Governor Ibrahim Salman Al Mayali said he was delighted to be there standing among his people and friends to open the bridge project that connects the two banks of the Euphrates River.

"Thanks to our friends the Provincial Reconstruction Team and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their support in building and completing this project and other projects which directly benefit the people of this province," said Al Mayali.

The idea for this bridge was first proposed by the Provincial Reconstruction Development Committee in 2007 as a way to aid the community by linking two sides of the city with a safe pathway for pedestrians.

"The committee recognized the difficulties and hazards the citizens of Al Khidr endured to simply cross this river," said Muthanna PRT Lead John Kuschner. "This footbridge will now make crossing the river routine, safe and easy."

Although safety and convenience are very important, Kuschner said there were other factors considered in the design

of the bridge.

"The committee also had the foresight to include a water pipe and a conduit for electrical wiring in the design of the bridge to improve the standard of living of people on both sides of the river," said Kuschner. "So this bridge now provides multiple benefits to thousands of citizens in this city and its surrounding area."

Maj. Sinlan Morrow, a PRT engineer and member of GRD's South district, said the pedestrian bridge may not have happened without the persistence of the Iraqi contractor and local leaders and officials.

"This project would not be possible without the efforts of the Provincial Reconstruction Team for identifying the need and funding the requirement; the local leaders and government officials for their support and oversight; Logal Company for Commerce Constructing, for their commitment to meet their contractual obligations, and to our team of Iraqi engineers for project quality assurance," Morrow said.

"What is important to learn from this is that there was a commitment by one local Iraqi company, that said that they could do it – and they did just that," said Morrow.

"This bridge is obviously an impressive feat of engineering, but it is also an excellent example of what can be accomplished when the elected officials from Muthanna work together with the PRT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and implement much-needed projects on behalf of the citizens of this province," said Kuschner.

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مدير المشروع روبرت مودي  
والكوماندا سارجنت ميكر مايكل  
سانكرن والكولونيل جفري نيبيل  
يتفحصون الجسر قبل مراسم قص  
الشريط. يعد الجسر أول مشروع  
لتسهيل معيشة السكان خلال ٢٥ عاما.

## افتتاح جسر للمشاة في جنوبي العراق

من أليشيا أمبراي  
قسم الجنوب في فرقة منطقة الخليج

وقال "كان للجنة رؤية تضمنت مد أنابيب مياه واخرى لقايلوات الكهرباء في الجسر لتحسين معيشة الناس على جانبي النهر". وأضاف "لذا، فالجسر يقدم الان خدمات متعددة للآلاف من سكان المدينة وما حولها من المناطق".

من جهته، قال المهندس في فريق اعادة اعمار المحافظات والموظف لدى قسم الجنوب في فرقة منطقة الخليج الميجر سينلان مورو ان جسر المشاة لم يكن ليقام من دون اصرار المتعاقد العراقي والقادة والمسؤولين المحليين.

وأوضح مورو ان "لم يكن هذا المشروع ممكنا لولا جهود فريق اعادة اعمار المحافظات في تحديد الحاجة والتمويل، والقادة المحليين ومسؤولي الحكومة لدعمهم واصرارهم، وكذلك شركة المقاولات التجارية لالتزامها تنفيذ العقد ولفريق المهندسين العراقيين ودورهم في ضمان جودة العمل".

واردف بالقول "الشيء المهم الذي نتعلمه من هذا، هو مدى التزام الشركة العراقية، حيث قالوا ان بإمكانهم انجاز العمل - وقد انجزوه كما قالوا".

من جانبه، قال كوشنر ان "هذا الجسر هو بوضوح عمل هندسي باهر، وفي الوقت نفسه مثال ممتاز لما يمكن انجازه عندما يعمل المسؤولون المنتخبون في محافظة المثنى مع فريق اعادة اعمار المحافظات وفيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي في تصميم وتنفيذ مشروعات مست الحاجة اليها في صالح مواطني هذه المحافظة". وأنجزت فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي في العراق، الافا من مشروعات اعادة الاعمار بالشراكة مع الحكومة الأمريكية وحكومة العراق. ومنذ عام ٢٠٠٤، أشرفت فرقة منطقة الخليج على ٥,٢٥٧ مشروعا في أرجاء العراق بقيمة ٨,٣ مليار دولار، فيما يتواصل العمل في ٣٦١ مشروعا قيد الانجاز.

بعد ٢٥ عاما من الالهال، تلقى أهالي مدينة الخضر، البالغ تعدادهم ٥٠ ألف نسمة، ما يسهل معيشتهم، حيث تم في ١٨ آب افتتاح جسر مشاة مسقف فوق نهر الفرات يربط بين جانبي المدينة الواقعة في محافظة المثنى.

وأشرف على أعمال البناء بقيمة ٣٦٠ ألف دولار قسم الجنوب في فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي.

وقال مسؤول في طرق وجسور المثنى ان "الجسر سيقدم خدمة مهمة لسكان الخضر الذين اعانوا طويلا من جسر العوامات القديم والخطر الذي لا يمكن الاعتماد عليه". وأضاف "نعد هذا المشروع بداية مشروعات اخرى في هذا المجال، ومعا سنبني هذه البلاد".

وفي كلمة الافتتاح التي القاها محافظ المثنى، ابراهيم سلمان الميالي، قال انه مسرور بكونه يقف هناك ويفتح الجسر الذي يربط جانبي نهر الفرات.

وأضاف الميالي "اشكر الأصدقاء في فريق اعادة اعمار المحافظات وفيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي لدعمهم في بناء هذا المشروع وغيره من المشروعات التي تنفع بنحو مباشر أبناء هذه المحافظة". وكانت لجنة تطوير اعادة الاعمار المحافظات اقترحت الفكرة بادئ الأمر عام ٢٠٠٧ بوصفها وسيلة آمنة تساعد الأهالي على الانتقال بين جانبي المدينة.

وقال قائد فريق اعادة اعمار محافظة المثنى جون كوشنر "لاحظت اللجنة الصعوبات والمخاطر التي يتعرض لها أهالي الخضر عندما يعبرون النهر،" مضيفا "جسر المشاة هذا سيجعل عبور النهر شيئا روتينيا آمنا وسهلا".

وعلى الرغم من أهمية أمن الجسر، الذي يبلغ طوله ١٣٢ مترا، وملأته لعبور المشاة، الا ان هناك عوامل اخرى تم اخذها بنظر الاعتبار عندما وضعت تصاميم الجسر، بحسب كوشنر.





Officials from Gulf Region District, the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity and the project contractor worked together in Baghdad recently to overcome project issues. The project will bring more stable power to Fallujah.

# Vital Fallujah electricity project nears completion

By Ronald A. Reeves  
Gulf Region District

A 132-kilovolt substation in Fallujah, projected for completion in October, will result in more consistent and stable electricity for Fallujah residents.

The \$14.8 million project is being managed by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, and funded by the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

The substation was damaged in a fire caused by circuit breaker failure in Jan. 2005, and was identified by the Division's Gulf Region District as a significant capacity-building project for Fallujah.

Maj. Joseph Geary, the officer in charge of the District's resident office in Fallujah, praised the team for working steadfastly on the project and overcoming various issues, including getting the equipment on site in good condition.

For example, when a transformer arrived damaged, security concerns hindered its delivery to the repair facility in another province. GRD officials and the contractor worked together to negotiate the transport and repair of the critical component. Now, in coordination with Iraqi security forces, the project is progressing along.

"It's a great story where the contractor, GRD and the Deputy General from the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity all worked together to move this project closer to the

finish line," said Geary.

The transformer is at the factory for repair and is expected to be ready in approximately 60 days. In the meantime, the contractor is continuing to work on the switching equipment and other internal components.

When the 132-kilovolt substation is complete, the Fallujah Minister of Electricity will have more latitude in managing the power grid as it relates to allocating power from area to area.

Improvements at the Fallujah substation will also provide expansion

capacity with the addition of another bay and main transformer.

During its peak construction season, construction of the Fallujah substation employed 40 Iraqi workers.

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Gulf Region District project engineer Troy Swofford and Maj. Joseph Geary, officer in charge of the Fallujah Resident Office, view the Fallujah substation yard.





## مشروع كهربائي حيوي في الفلوجة في مراحله الأخيرة

من رونالد ريفز  
قسم منطقة الخليج

اضافية مع قسم ملحق اخر ومحولة رئيسية. وخلال موسم ذروة العمل في المشروع عمل في محطة الفلوجة الفرعية ٤٠ عاملا عراقيا. وأنجزت فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي في العراق، الاف مشروعات اعادة الاعمار بالشراكة مع حكومة الولايات المتحدة والحكومة العراقية، ومنذ انطلاقتها في عام ٢٠٠٤، انجزت فرقة منطقة الخليج ٥,٢٥٧ مشروعا في أنحاء العراق بقيمة ٨,٣ مليار دولار فيما تتواصل الأعمال في ٣٦١ مشروعا قيد الانجاز.

وتجري الان اصلاحات على المحولة في المعمل ومن المؤمل ان تكون جاهزة في غضون ٦٠ يوما، وفي الوقت نفسه، يواصل المتعاقد عمله في معدات المفتاح الكهربائي وغيره من المكونات الداخلية. وحال انتهاء المحطة الفرعية بقدرة ١٣٢ كيلو فولت، ستكون لدى وزارة الكهرباء العراقية حرية اكبر لادارة شبكة الطاقة الكهربائية فيما يتعلق بحصص المناطق المختلفة من الكهرباء. وسيعطي تحسين محطة الفلوجة الفرعية سعة

الفلوجة، العراق - ستجهز محطة فرعية بقدرة ١٣٢ كيلو فولت ستنجز في تشرين الأول في الفلوجة كهرباء أكثر استقرارا لأهالي المدينة. وتتولى فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي في العراق، ادارة المشروع بتكلفة ١٤,٨ مليون دولار يدفعها صندوق اغاثة واعادة اعمار العراق. وتسبب اندلاع حريق جراء اخفاق في قاطع الدورة في كانون الثاني ٢٠٠٥ بأضرار لحقت المحطة الفرعية. وتم تعريف المشروع الكهربائي من قبل قسم منطقة الخليج التابع للفرقة بوصفه مشروعا يطور كثيرا القدرات في الفلوجة.

من جانبه، أثنى الضابط المسؤول عن المكتب المقيم في الفلوجة، الميجر جوزيف كيري، على الفريق لعمله المتواصل في المشروع وتغلبه على مسائل مختلفة بينها احضار المعدات الى موقع العمل وهي بحالة جيدة.

وعلى سبيل المثال، فعندما تصل محولة وهي متضررة، فسوف يعيق تسليمها الى منشأة الإصلاح في محافظة اخرى مخاوف أمنية. لكن، يناقش المسؤولون في فرقة منطقة الخليج والمتعاقد معا كيفية النقل واصلاح المكونات المهمة. والان وبعد التنسيق مع قوات الأمن العراقية، فان المشروع في طريقه الى الانجاز. وقال كيري ان "قصة المشروع رائعة، حيث يعمل كل من المتعاقد وفرقة منطقة الخليج ونائب المدير المعني بالأمر من وزارة الكهرباء العراقية معا للوصول بهذا المشروع الى مرحلة انجاز متقدمة."



عمال يفحصون لوحة مفاتيح محطة الفلوجة الفرعية بقدرة ١٣٢ كيلو فولت التي يؤمل انجازها في تشرين الأول. وتدير المشروع البالغة قيمته ١٤,٨ مليون دولار فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي.



“The Al Araby Youth Center reflects the immense pride and a genuine sense of accomplishment by everyone who worked on this project”

Inez Bergerson,  
Loyalty Resident Office  
project engineer



*The Al Araby Youth Center is located in the Al Shaab community in northwestern Baghdad and features a 25-meter swimming pool on the 10,000-square meter site.*

## Al Araby Youth Center opens in Baghdad

By Mike Scheck  
Gulf Region District

Mahatma Gandhi stated that, “If we wish to create a lasting peace we must begin with the children.”

The conflict in Iraq has had a dramatic effect on Iraqi children, but the children of Al Shaab now have a safer place to play with the opening of the Al Araby Youth Center.

The center is a result of the efforts of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, and its partnership with the local Iraqi government.

Local dignitaries, including the Iraqi Minister of Youth Sports, formally opened the youth center during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 30. The \$2.5 million youth center, funded through the Iraqi Economic Support Fund, is the first of its kind built by the Gulf Region District's Loyalty Resident Office. The year-long project included the construction of martial arts training rooms, a 25-meter swimming pool, a weight room, game rooms for billiards and ping pong, a cafeteria with kitchen and a computer center for Internet access and video games. For added security, the 10,000 square-meter site is surrounded by security walls.

“The Al Araby Youth Center reflects the immense pride and

a genuine sense of accomplishment by everyone who worked on this project,” said Inez Bergerson, the Loyalty Resident Office project engineer. “The goal of all members of the project team, from the workers who cleared the site to the skilled craftsmen and engineers, was to build a facility for the enjoyment of the young Iraqis in this neighborhood. It is through the construction of facilities like these that Iraqi communities can join together and find hope for the future.”

The Iraqi-owned Silver Moons Company was the general contractor for the project. All of the sub-contractors were also Iraqi-owned companies, according to Bergerson. More than 65 local Iraqis worked on the project, providing a much-needed economic boost to the local community. The facility will have a full time staff of 30 employees.

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# Brother and sister servicemembers reconnect in Iraq

By Chanel S. Weaver  
Gulf Region Division

Because of their conflicting schedules and military obligations, Air Force Senior Airman Jessica Comer and her brother, Army Spc. Jeffrey Comer normally see each other once a year at Christmas.

But Christmas came early this year for the siblings when they were able to spend time together in Baghdad while they both were on a four-day pass.

Although both Comers are deployed to Iraq, they were stationed in separate cities and weren't expecting to see each other.

Senior Airman Comer, 22, is an enlisted aide to the Commanding General working at the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Baghdad. Her brother, Jeff, 21, is a Blackhawk Crew Chief for Charley Company 3-10, General Support Aviation Battalion, Medevac, in Tal Afar.

They credit the leadership of their units with helping them to connect in Baghdad.

When GRD Command Sergeant Major Richard Prater heard that Senior Airman Comer had a brother in Iraq, he wanted to help them reunite.

"My nephew is in Balad, so I knew what it meant to see those close family members while you were here if possible," said Prater. "When I heard that Senior Airman Comer's brother was stationed in northern Iraq, helping them get together seemed like the right thing to do."

After some coordination between the two units, the brother and sister met at Victory Base Complex, near Baghdad.

They spent the days catching up and visiting historic places at Victory Base Complex.

Spc. Comer said the visit to Baghdad was a welcome break from his daily routine.

"I normally see Iraq from the air, so it was nice for me to see things from the ground," he said.

Senior Airman Comer said the visit was enjoyable because she was able to connect with her younger brother.

"It was great for me to see him and know that he is doing well," she said. "It's reassuring to know that I am not over here alone."

Although the siblings enjoyed catching up and sharing stories of their deployment experiences, there is still some friendly rivalry between them because they are serving in separate branches of the military.

Older sister Jessica joined the Air Force first in April 2006, and her brother, Jeffrey, was initially going to follow in her footsteps, but opted for the Army instead.

"I always knew that I wanted a career in aviation, and the Army guaranteed I'd work on a Blackhawk helicopter," he said.

Regardless of their separate branches of the military, the Comers said they were grateful for the opportunity to spend time with each other.

"It was certainly a morale-booster," said Spc. Comer.

Senior Airman Comer and Spec. Comer are not the only members of their family to serve in the military.

Their older brother, Jared, deployed as part of the Army to support Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004.

Their mother, Jo, said she is happy her son and daughter are

looking out for each other and she is proud of her children for their patriotism.

"I am thrilled and pretty excited to see that they were able to hook up," she said. "It's rewarding for me to see the young adults they have become."



*Army Spc. Jeffrey Comer and his sister, Air Force Senior Airman Jessica Comer, go for a stroll at the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad. The brother and sister are both serving tours of duty in Iraq.*





*This 10-inch diameter pipe feeds the new project from Al Qaraf River, source of raw water to supply this project.*

## GRD brings clean water to Wassit province

By A. Al Bahrani  
Gulf Region South

Residents of the Hay Al Jihad community in southern Iraq's Wassit province are enjoying a clean, ample water supply thanks to their local government and its partnership with the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

"We are very happy today to open an important project that will directly impact this community," said Lateef Hamed, Wassit governor, during the Aug. 18 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$1 million, 200-cubic-meter Al Jihad water compact unit facility.

The project was managed by the Gulf Region South district, and constructed using funds from the Emergency Support Fund.

Last summer, residents of Hay Al Jihad faced an issue that is common in Iraq – water shortage.

"We suffered from a water shortage and anxiously waited for the district to complete a new modern water compact unit that would provide us fresh water," said Satar Farhan Jaber, who has operated the community's water compact unit for 14 years.

"Those days are over," said Jaber. "Now all the people here are happy with the improvement."

Hamed was appreciative of the reconstruction team's efforts.

"I want to thank the Provincial Reconstruction Team and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their continued support to build and complete this and other projects in Wassit," Hamed said.

According to Maj. Andrew Staiano, GRS resident engineer in Wassit province, construction of the new facility brings many benefits to the 35,000 residents of Hay Al Jihad.

"Fresh water is becoming ever more precious and hard to find due to the current drought in southern Iraq," said Staiano. "By increasing the efficiency of the water management system, they will now enjoy more clean water."

"The unit will supplement the existing water treatment unit which was not adequately supporting the community," said Staiano. "The new facility will be

more than capable of providing fresh water to the residents in Hay Al Jihad."

Dozens of Iraqis were on the construction crew for the project that includes approximately three kilometers of a water distribution network.

Apart from the renovation work, the project includes a new chlorine building and chlorination system, two 50-cubic-meter ground storage tanks, a new steel intake structure, and two new 200-cubic-meter-per-hour water treatment units. The crew also installed a new switch gear room, two five-megavolt amp transformers and four new one-megavolt back-up generators.

Staiano said he is proud to be part of a project that will have a significant impact on the quality of life of the Iraqis living in this neighborhood. He also said the project is an example of the local

government's ability to provide the basic services the neighborhood needs to thrive.

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the U.S. government and the government of Iraq. Since 2004, GRD has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$8.3 billion, and has 361 projects ongoing.



*Wassit Governor Lateef Hamed (center) attends the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new water compact unit for the 35,000 residents of Hay Al Jihad. The project was managed by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.*





*Construction on Al Hasan Al Basri school began in April 2009. Amenities include 12 classrooms, an administrative area, library, potable water system, communication system with Internet capabilities and a fire alarm system.*

## School project inspires hope in Iraqi children

By A. Al Bahrani  
Gulf Region South

"Most of the people in this area missed the opportunity to go to school and learn as children. We want our children to have a better-educated future," said Ali Jalab Hasson, Al Hamza district mayor and civil engineer with the Qadisiyah Education Department.

That dream of a better education is just months away, as the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq is helping with the construction of the Al Hasan Al Basri school.

The \$1.1 million project is being managed by the Division's Gulf Region South district and constructed using funds from the Emergency Support Fund.

"The Al Hasan Al Basri modern two-story facility will be the source of pride for Al Hamza residents," Hasson said. "All the people here wish to provide a good education for their children and that is what this school is going to do."

The school project in Qadisiyah province will improve the quality of education for more than 800 students.

"Most of the schools here are old and in need of windows, doors and bathroom repairs," said Hasson. "When completed this school will be the first modern facility since 2003 in the area that meets international health and safety standards."

Amjad Khnteel, the GRS project engineer, said the new school will feature many amenities.

"The project will include 12 classrooms, an administrative area, library, potable water system, communication system with Internet capabilities and a fire alarm system," said Khnteel.

Khnteel also said the project will benefit the local community.

"About 25 Iraqis are currently working on this project which helps create much needed opportunities for employment of the local populace and enhance the economic situation of Al Hamza district and surrounding communities," Khnteel said.

The school will also provide permanent jobs for Iraqis when it is completed.

"Approximately 20 local Iraqis, including headmaster, teachers, administrative assistants and guards will work at the new facility when it's open by end of this year," Hasson added. "That number is expected to grow once it's fully operational."

The school construction project is 15 percent complete and expected to be completed in December 2009.

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*Approximately 25 Iraqis are working on the project which helps create opportunities for local employment and enhances the economic situation of Al Hamza district and surrounding communities.*



*Construction of barracks at Al Muthana Air Base in Baghdad is approximately 90 percent complete. The housing facilities will provide barracks for the Iraqi air force's 23rd Transport Squadron.*

## GRD builds new facilities for Iraqi air force

By Ronald A. Reeves  
Gulf Region District

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq is managing several projects to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi air force.

GRD's Gulf Region District is overseeing construction of new housing facilities for the 23rd Transport Squadron that is approximately 90 percent complete and a C-130 aircraft hangar and ramp project that is more than 90 percent complete.

The projects, totaling \$9.2 million, will help Iraq continue its transition to an independent military force by providing billeting, warehouses and other structures of military significance.

The Iraqi air force's 23rd Transport Squadron moved from Ali Air Base in Tallil to Al Muthana Air Base adjacent to Baghdad International Airport in February 2006. The new housing facility under construction at Al Muthana Air Base will provide quality living conditions for assigned personnel.

The housing facility consists of two barracks buildings that will provide billeting for 384 Iraqi Airmen.

The Gulf Region District is also supervising repairs to the C-130 ramp,

the apron, the hangar, and construction of a communications facility to house the secure transmission network for the Iraqi air force at Al Muthana Air Base.

Roy Brase, a District construction representative, said the District has been working closely with the contractor to ensure construction standards were enforced and the projects adhered to safety.

Don Mills, also a District construction representative, said he sees weekly progress and the housing facility is moving along.

"It's rewarding to see the Iraqi air force achieve a higher standard of living through my seemingly small acts as a construction representative," said Mills.

The Gulf Region Division works in

conjunction with the Multi-National Security Transition Command, Iraq to construct facilities that serve the Iraqi Security Forces.

The projects being built at Al Muthana Air Base are projected to be finished by October.

On average, the construction of Al Muthana Air Base employs 60 Iraqi workers.

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“It's rewarding to see the Iraqi air force achieve a higher standard of living through my seemingly small acts as a construction representative”

Don Mills, District construction representative





تقوم فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي في العراق، بإدارة أعمال البناء في وحدتين سكنيتين عسكريتين في قاعدة المثنى الجوية في مجمع قاعدة فيكتوري في ضواحي بغداد.

## فرقة منطقة الخليج تبني مرافق جديدة للقوة الجوية العراقية

من رونالد ريفز  
قسم منطقة الخليج

تدير فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي في العراق، عدة مشروعات للنهوض بقدرة القوة الجوية العراقية. ويقوم قسم منطقة الخليج التابع للفرقة بالإشراف على أعمال بناء مرافق سكنية جديدة لسرب النقل ٢٣ تم انجاز نحو ٩٠ بالمائة منها، وحظيرة شحن وتفرغ وصيانة طائرات طراز سي-١٣٠ حيث تم انجاز أكثر من ٩٠ بالمائة من مشروع الحظيرة. وبلغت تكلفة المشاريع ٩,٢ مليون دولار، وسوف تصرف في مساعدة العراق على التحول الى قوة عسكرية مستقلة عن طريق توفير وحدات السكن العسكرية والمستودعات والمرافق الأخرى ذات الأهمية العسكرية.

وانتقل سرب النقل ٢٣ للقوة الجوية العراقية من قاعدة الامام علي في طليل الى قاعدة المثنى الجوية المجاورة لمطار بغداد الدولي في شباط ٢٠٠٦. وسوف يوفر مشروع الاسكان الجديد في قاعدة المثنى الجوية ظروف معيشية أفضل للموظفين المعينين. وتتكون المرافق السكنية من وحدتين للسكن العسكري تتسعان معاً لـ ٣٨٤ طيار وفني عراقي. ويقوم قسم منطقة الخليج بالإشراف على اصلاحات حظيرة شحن وتفرغ وصيانة الطائرات طراز سي-١٣٠، وأعمال بناء منشأة اتصالات تضم شبكة ارسال محصنة للقوة الجوية العراقية في قاعدة المثنى الجوية.

من جهته، قال ممثل أعمال البناء في القسم، روي براس، ان القسم لا يزال يعمل جنباً الى جنب مع المقاول لضمان تحقيق جودة أعمال البناء ومطابقة المشروع لمتطلبات الأمان والسلامة. من جانبه، يرى ممثل أعمال بناء آخر في القسم، دون ميلز، تقدماً كل اسبوع فيما يتواصل العمل لانجاز وحدات السكن العسكري. وقال ميلز "يسعدني رؤية القوة الجوية العراقية وهي تتمتع بمستوى معيشة أفضل بسبب أفعال أراها صغيرة قمت بها بصفتي ممثل أعمال بناء". وتعمل فرقة منطقة الخليج جنباً الى جنب مع قيادة الانتقال الأمني للقوات المتعددة الجنسيات، العراق، لتبني منشآت تخدم قوات الأمن العراقية. ويتوقع انجاز هذا المشروعات في قاعدة المثنى الجوية بحلول تشرين الأول. وفي المتوسط، يعمل نحو ٦٠ عاملاً عراقياً في مشاريع بناء بقاعدة المثنى الجوية. وأنجزت فرقة منطقة الخليج، فيلق مهندسي الجيش الأمريكي في العراق، آلاف مشروعات اعادة الاعمار في شراكة مع الحكومة الأمريكية وحكومة العراق. ومنذ عام ٢٠٠٤ حتى الان، انجزت الفرقة ٥,٢٥٧ مشروعاً في جميع أنحاء العراق بتكلفة أكثر من ٨,٣ مليار دولار فيما تتواصل الأعمال في ٣٦١ مشروعاً قيد التنفيذ.

سيعدني رؤية القوة الجوية العراقية وهي تتمتع بمستوى معيشة أفضل بسبب أفعال أراها صغيرة قمت بها بصفتي ممثل أعمال بناء.

دون ميلز، ممثل أعمال بناء في قسم منطقة الخليج



# GRD Command Sergeant Major speaks at NCO induction ceremony

By Chanel S. Weaver  
Gulf Region Division

Gulf Region Division Command Sergeant Major Richard “Mitch” Prater was the keynote speaker at a Non-Commissioned Officer Induction and Reaffirmation Ceremony held at the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad September 2.

The purpose of the ceremony, hosted by Task Force 844, was to induct new Soldiers into the NCO Corps as well as provide other NCOs the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to leading today’s Soldiers.

“Today you are taking an important step in the future leadership of our Army,” said Prater.

More than 350 people participated in the ceremony, including representatives from the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq; 194th Engineer Brigade; Task Force 844; Iraqi Engineer Training Brigade; and the Iraqi government.

During his remarks, Prater also talked about the valued commitment the NCO

Corps has made to the Army over the years.

“It is the leadership and quality of the NCO Corps that make our Army the premier force that it is,” said Prater.

During the ceremony, the NCO’s reaffirmed their commitment to the NCO Creed, “crossed over the NCO Bridge,” symbolizing moving from the ranks of the junior enlisted into the ranks of the Non-commissioned Officer Corps and recited the Soldier’s Creed.

“You must stay committed to taking care of Soldiers – they are our most precious resource,” said Prater.

Prater knows firsthand the important contributions that NCOs make to the

Army. He has been in the NCO Corps for more than 22 years, and has led Soldiers in numerous operations and exercises throughout all levels of the Army. He has also received numerous awards and decorations in

“It is the leadership and quality of the NCO Corps that make our Army the premier force that it is”

Command Sgt. Maj.  
Richard “Mitch” Prater

recognition of his service and commitment to Soldiers.





*Work is progressing on the Al Farabi School in Haditha. The 12-room primary school will accommodate up to 600 students when it is completed in November.*

## GRD managing hospital, school projects in Haditha, Iraq

By Mike Scheck  
Gulf Region District

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, in partnership with the Iraqi government, is completing work on two major construction projects in Haditha.

Engineers from the Gulf Region District's Al Asad Resident Office are managing the renovation and expansion of the Haditha Hospital and the construction of the Al Farabi School.

When complete, the two projects will provide educational opportunities for 600 primary school students and improve health care for the 150,000 residents in the western Al Anbar province.

The Haditha Hospital currently provides health care to more than 600 patients a day. In 2005, the facility was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device that destroyed the entire logistic and support departments of the 100-bed facility.

The \$5 million renovation project is designed to address the critical needs of the hospital, according to the District's project engineers. Engineers worked closely with the hospital staff and determined that those needs included the construction of an administrative area, a comprehensive laboratory facility, a surgical wing and an imaging ward to provide both X-ray and CT scanning capabilities.

"The scope of work for the Haditha Hospital was initially revised after many hours of planning and consultation between USACE engineers, the hospital staff and U.S. military physicians and medical technicians at the Marine Hospital at Al Asad," said Mahood Al Helli, deputy resident engineer for the Al Asad Resident Office. "The redesigned plan increased both the capacity and capability of the hospital without significantly increasing the cost of the project."

The Iraqi-based Areebel Company is the general contractor

for the hospital renovation project, which is scheduled to be completed in December 2009.

The Iraqi educational system was once regarded as the best in the Middle East. Prior to 1990, all eligible primary age Iraqi students attended school. Primary school enrollment dropped to less than 20 percent during the 1990s due to both neglect and the two Iraqi wars, according to the U.S. Agency for International Development. And although enrollment in primary schools has been steadily increasing since 2003, demand for adequate schools has far outpaced available schools in Iraq.

More than 600 primary school students in Haditha will soon be attending the new Al Farabi School. The 12-room, two-story school is scheduled to be completed in November 2009.

The new school will be the largest in Haditha. The engineering design calls for the construction of the 12-room school main building, a free standing administration building, guard house and lavatory/storage building. The plans also include construction of a central playground and security walls around the entire complex.

The Iraqi-owned Altayf Al-Abiad Company is the general contractor for the \$928,000 school project that employs more than 60 local residents.

Funding for both projects was provided by the Economic Support Fund.

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the U.S. government and the government of Iraq. Since 2004, GRD has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$8.3 billion, and has 361 projects ongoing.





*Maj. Gen. Abdullah, commander of the Iraqi Army Seventh Division, cuts the ribbon signifying the completion and turnover of the Al Asad Location Command. He is flanked by (left) Col. Dan Anninos, commander of the Gulf Region District, and Col. Khalid Noori, commander of the Location Command.*

# GRD builds new facilities for Iraqi army

By Mike Scheck  
Gulf Region District

With U.S. Marine units set to leave the base at Al Asad in the coming months and a reduction in strength for the U.S. Army units replacing them, more emphasis is being placed on the Iraqi army.

Those Iraqi army units are now much better equipped to provide protection to the western Al Anbar province following the recent completion of the Al Asad Location Command.

The \$8.7 million location command project, managed by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, was formally turned over to the Iraqi army following a ribbon-cutting ceremony September 10.

U.S. and Iraqi dignitaries attending the ceremony included Col. Dan Anninos, commander of the Gulf Region District; Maj. General Abdullah, commander of the Iraqi Seventh Army and Col. Khalid Noori, commander of the Al Asad Location Command.

"Today we celebrate a major step toward the completion of the Al Asad Location Command," said Noori. "This command will have a major impact in the support of Iraqi units in the western region by managing administrative and technical support and providing security for both the base and the mobile convoys."

Anninos called the completion of the project a proud event for the Gulf

Region District's Al Asad Resident Office and the Iraqi army.

"My team is very proud of these facilities and we hope it increases the Iraqi army's readiness level as they assume more responsibility for their country's security," said Annino. "Together, we built this facility one brick at a time with our collective hands, minds and hearts."

The scope of the project included the construction of a fire station, a flammable materials point, platoon warehouse and three new barracks capable of housing 250 soldiers. The project also included the construction of a bulk lubricant storage facility and distribution points with a capacity to hold

2.3 million liters of diesel fuel, 800,000 liters of benzene and 100,000 liters of kerosene.

The Turkish owned Emta Insaat A. S. Company was the general contractor for the 12-month project. Funding for the facility was provided through the Iraqi Security Force Fund.

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*The fuel storage facility at the Al Asad Location Command has the capacity to store and distribute diesel fuel, benzene and kerosene.*





*Gulf Region District Commander Dan Anninos (right) inspects one of the two Rolls-Royce turbines at the Karkh Water Treatment Plant. The turbines will provide back-up electrical power for the Taji water treatment facility.*

## GRD completes repairs to Taji water treatment facility

By Mike Scheck  
Gulf Region District

Engineers will soon be firing up two jet engines, but it won't be at the Baghdad airport.

In partnership with the Government of Iraq, the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed the repair of twin Rolls-Royce jet turbines at the Karkh Water Treatment Plant.

Successful liability testing of the turbines could equate to 40 percent of Baghdad area residents enjoying an uninterrupted water supply.

The testing is the culmination of an extensive repair project to the Taji based facility, managed by the Gulf Region District's Taji Resident Office.

The \$8.3 million project entailed rebuilding the backup generating system for the plant, after it was heavily damaged by a bomb in 2005.

"The project is vital to residents of Taji, providing more than 345,000 gallons of water per day to local residents," said Project Engineer Reginald Terry.

The unreliability of the Baghdad electrical power grid makes it essential for a backup system to be online to keep the

plant fully functional."

A power outage can cause up to a four-hour delay to restart the water treatment system. The backup power system at the facility utilizes twin Rolls-Royce jet turbine engines that produce 8.5 megawatts of electricity.

The project also involved reconstruction of the generator building, the installation of a new turbine-generator control system, repairing the fuel delivery system to the turbines and the rehabilitation of the butterfly valves to increase the flow and capacity of water through the treatment process.

The Iraqi-based Aws Mohey Ahmed

Company was the general contractor for the repair project. The Houston-based HPI LLC is providing the equipment and technical expertise for the turbine control systems. The project was financed through the Iraqi Economic Support Fund.

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**"The project is vital to residents of Taji, providing more than 345,000 gallons of water per day to local residents."**

**Project Engineer Reginald Terry**



# Hailing:



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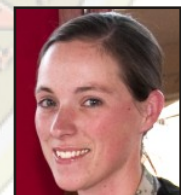
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